b) an amino acid sequence of a fragment of a), which fragment binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or decreases the activity of NF-κB;

c) an amino acid sequence of an analog of a) or b), having no more than ten changes in the amino acid sequence of a) or b), each said change being a substitution, deletion or insertion of an amino acid, which analog binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or decreases the activity of NF-κB; or

d) a derivative of a), b) or c) which binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or decreases the activity of NF-κB.

Please amend claims 22, 43, 44, 49 and 52-55 as follows:

22 (Thrice-amended). An antibody, active fragment of the antibody, or derivative thereof, specific for a polypeptide according to claim 69.

43 (Amended). A method for screening of a ligand capable of binding a polypeptide according to claim 69 comprising contacting an affinity chromatography matrix to which said polypeptide is attached with a cell extract whereby the ligand is bound to said matrix, and eluting, isolating and analyzing said ligand.

44 (Amended). A method for screening of a DNA sequence coding for a ligand capable of binding to a polypeptide according to claim 69 comprising applying the

yeast two-hybrid procedure in which a sequence encoding said polypeptide is carried by one hybrid vector and sequences from a cDNA or genomic DNA library are carried by the second hybrid vector, transforming yeast host cells with said vectors, isolating the positively transformed cells, and extracting said second hybrid vector to obtain a sequence encoding said ligand.

49 (Twice-amended). A method for identifying and producing a molecule capable of directly or indirectly either inhibiting or decreasing the cellular activity which is changed or mediated by a polypeptide according to claim 69;

52 (Amended). A polypeptide in accordance with claim 69, wherein said polypeptide of (a) is the sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

53 (Twice-amended). A polypeptide in accordance with claim 69, wherein said polypeptide of (a) is the polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

54 (Amended). A DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide in accordance with claim 69.

55 (Twice-amended). A DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide that binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or decreases activity of NF-κB, selected from the group consisting of

(i) a cDNA sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;

(ii) a cDNA sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6;

(iii) a cDNA sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;

(iv) a fragment of a sequence of (i)-(iii) which encodes a polypeptide that binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or decreases the activity of NF-κB;

(v) a DNA sequence capable of hybridization to a sequence of (i)-(iv) under moderately stringent conditions and which encodes a polypeptide that binds to TRAF2 and either inhibits or decreases the activity of NF-κB; and

(vi) any DNA sequence other than those defined in (i)-(v) which encodes a polypeptide in accordance with claim 69.

REMARKS

Claims 13-16, 20-22, 30, 43-50, 52-60 and 62-69 presently appear in this case. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully urged.

It has come to applicants' attention that claim 51 (amended) submitted with applicants' amendment March 20, 2002, inadvertently showed the amendment from the original version of claim 51, rather than from claim 51 (amended), as amended